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Ex-CIA head Colby backs Franchot, hits 'star wars'

By Arlo Wagner
 THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Democratic challenger Peter Franchot used former CIA Director William Colby yesterday to attack Maryland Republican Rep. Constance Morella for voting in favor of the multibillion-dollar Strategic Defense Initiative.

Mr. Colby, who served as Central Intelligence Agency chief for three years, said the so-called "star wars" program is very expensive, will not work, and compels the Soviets to devise new weapons to overcome it. Mr. Colby said he is backing Mr. Franchot's candidacy because he is against "star wars."

"I will do anything I can to help people get elected who are for arms control," explained Mr. Colby. But, he said, he is not registered as a Democrat or Republican and does not live in the 8th District; thus he will not be able to vote for Mr. Franchot.

Mr. Colby's comments came during a news conference in the Montgomery County Council press room in Rockville.

Contacted for response, Mrs. Morella accused Mr. Franchot of "posturing" and distorting her congressional voting record. She said her Democratic opponent might as well be attacking other Maryland members of Congress, most of them Democrats, who voted the same as she on two "star wars" bills.

"He plays with glittering general-



Peter Franchot

ities and he doesn't do his homework," the first-term congresswoman said.

Mrs. Morella said she voted only for minimum research on the defense initiative, not deployment. SDI research frequently develops data valuable to other scientific and human programs, especially at the National Institutes of Health, she said. Moreover, SDI research serves as a bargaining chip in negotiations with the Soviets, she said.

Mr. Franchot said Mrs. Morella's votes on the "star wars" bills and amendments are examples of waffling on and straddling issues. Mrs.

Morella voted against amendments to increase SDI funding so she could say she is against "star wars," but voted for bills of \$3.1 billion and \$3.5 billion, respectively, for research so she could say she favors it, Mr. Franchot asserted.

"She wants it both ways. Well, she can't have it that way. It's not fair."

Mr. Franchot also said Mrs. Morella voted for military aid to the Contras in Nicaragua when she voted last December for a continuing resolution that authorized federal government funding until Congress enacts formal budgets.

Mrs. Morella said the resolution included a provision to pay 65,000 federal employees. Members of Congress had to vote for or against "the whole package" even if there were provisions they did not like, she said.

"Any reasonable person knows that. I would be uneasy about electing anybody to Congress who doesn't know that," Mrs. Morella said.

Both Mrs. Morella and Mr. Franchot said they favor the Arias Peace Plan, for Central America instead of supporting the Contras.

Mrs. Morella voted for humanitarian aid for the Contras. Mr. Franchot said he would have opposed it.

In 1973, Mr. Colby was appointed director of the Central Intelligence Agency by President Richard M. Nixon and served 18 months under President Gerald Ford before George Bush succeeded him as director.